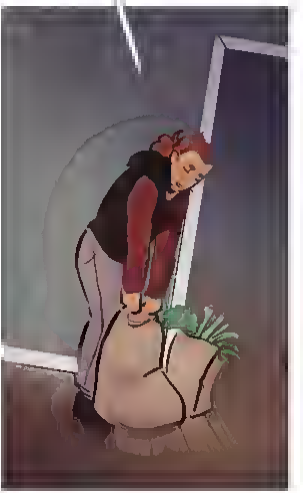
UNDER THE ASCOTS

GUESS WHO'S AN AUNTIE!!!

NO WAY!! AUNTIE SIENNA? THAT'S SO RAD!
HOW'S IT FEEL?

PRETTY GOOD...

BUT IT MAKES ME HOMESICK. I WISH I COULD SPEND TIME WITH MY NEPHEW AND FAMILY...



AWW SIENNA, IT'LL BE OKAY.

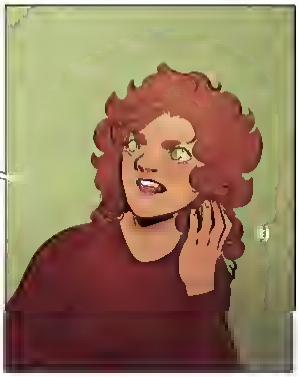
I'M SURE WE CAN FIND A WAY FOR YOU TO SEE THEM SOON.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOME HELP WITH THE NOSTALGIA, I KNOW OF A FEW METHODS THAT--

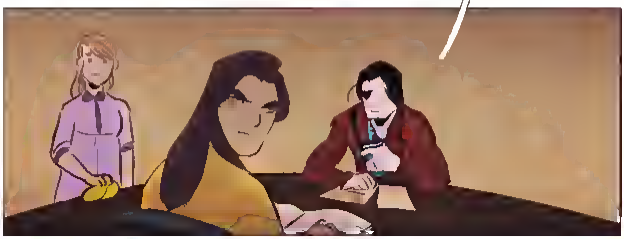
SERIOUSLY??

I DON'T NEED ANY OF THAT TEMPLAN STUFF, AND YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYWAY.

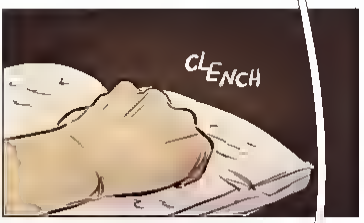
...IT'S NOT LIKE *YOU* MISS ANYONE BACK HOME.



...*SIENNA*.



MAYBE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN



BUT I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO ACHE FOR A FAMILY THAT I CAN NEVER SEE

WELL, SORRY BUT... YOU DON'T ACT LIKE IT.

ALWAYS KEEPING IT IN AND MEDITATING OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU DO TO PRETEND YOU DON'T HAVE FEELINGS--

SLAM!

KICK!

IS THIS A SUFFICIENT REACTION?
DO YOU WISH ME TO THROW OBJECTS OR BECOME ENRAGED OR WHATEVER IT IS FENN DO THAT MIGHT BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU?

SHUTTING YOURSELF IN A ROOM AND *MEDITATING* ISN'T HOW YOU SHOULD BE DEALING WITH THINGS!
IT WAS HOW I WAS TAUGHT TO MANAGE MYSELF! *WHY* MUST YOU CONSTANTLY INSULT MY CULTURE?
I *DON'T!* YOU'RE ALWAYS FINDING A WAY TO EXAGGERATE AND MAKE ME SEEM LIKE SOME KIND OF SAVAGE!

I WISH TO GET SOME AIR AND THUS CALM MYSELF ENOUGH TO DISCUSS THIS IN A CIVIL MANNER

FORGIVE ME FOR THE SCENE.

ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME!?
WE'RE NOT DONE HERE!

OH NO

WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO GOAD HIM LIKE THAT? I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THIS UPSET.

YEEEAAAH, I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS ONE. SIENNA MIGHT STRANGLE ME AGAIN

DUDE. YOU GO AND DO IT. YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT.
poke
poke

LOOK, I'LL FEEL HOMESICK IF I DAMNED WANT TO. I DON'T NEED A TEMPLAN TELLING ME I SHOULD COVER IT UP.
IT'S NOT HEALTHY THE WAY YOU--

STOP YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU SPEAK OF. I FEEL A GREAT MANY THINGS. TOO MANY.

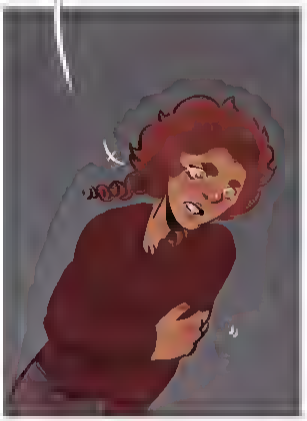
I KNOW ONLY HOW TO EXPRESS THEM THE WAY I WAS SHOWN. AND EVEN SO, I AM INEVITABLY OVERWHELMED.

YOU FEEL...THINGS. YEAH GENIUS, WE ALL FEEL THINGS BUT YOUR PROBLEM IS YOU PACK EVERYTHING IN. THAT GETS OVERWHELMING!

YOU DO NOT *UNDERSTAND*
IT IS UNBEARABLE HOW I SOMETIMES FEAR SO MUCH FOR THE WELLBEING OF THOSE AROUND ME
...ESPECIALLY YOURS

OKAY, WELL... NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO US EITHER...

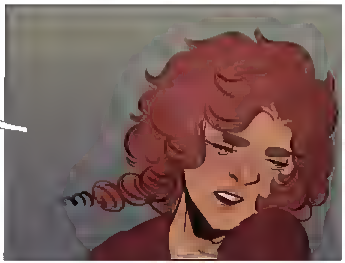
...OR TO YOU, SPECIFICALLY.

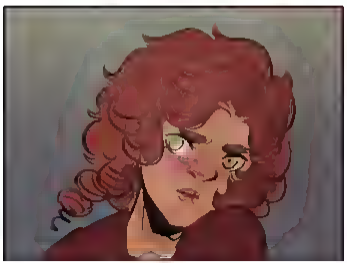


YOU KNOW...

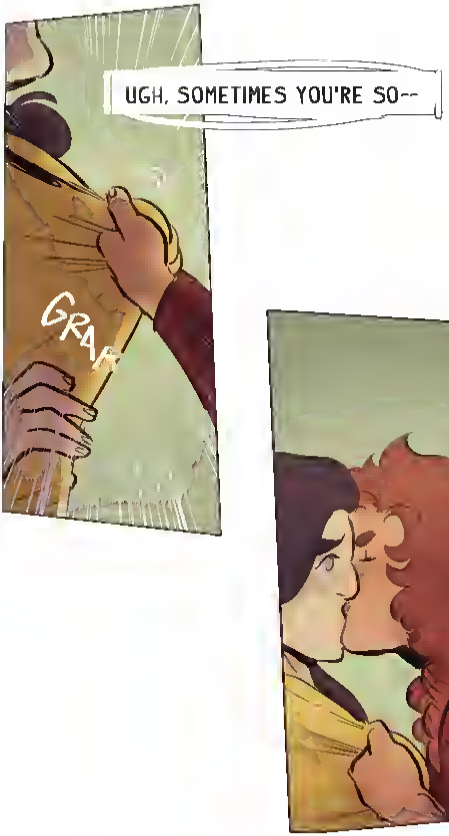
I'M SORTA GLAD THAT IF ONE OF US DIES, WE ALL DIE THAT WAY I DON'T HAVE TO KEEP GOING WITHOUT YOU

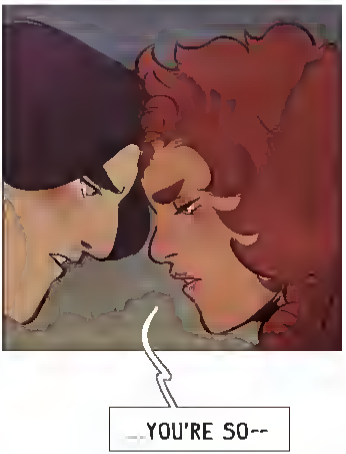
...OR THE OTHERS, WHATEVER

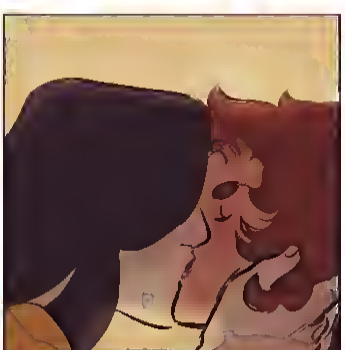




WHAT--WHY ARE YOU CRYING!??


UGH, SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO--
GRAB


...YOU'RE SO--



NEN, ARE THEY OKAY? SHOULD I BRING DOWN THE FIRST AID KIT?

UM...THEY'RE, UH...KISSING?

SO...YEAH, THEY'RE PRETTY OKAY!

OH!

OHHH...A LOT OF THINGS ARE STARTING TO MAKE SENSE NOW

THEM TOO!?
ARE ME AND NEN THE ONLY SANE ONES LEFT IN THIS HOUSE?!

THE NEXT DAY...
MAKE A WISH!

Sierra

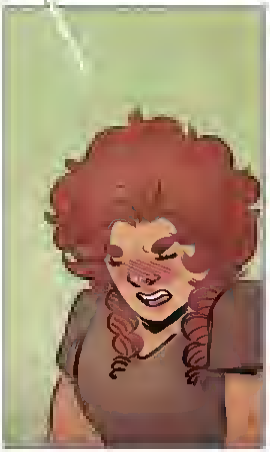
THANKS GUYS. THIS REALLY HELPS WITH THE HOMESICKNESS YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO--
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, SILLY! OF COURSE WE WERE GOING TO CELEBRATE IT.

OKAY. BUT JUST STOP BEING ALL GROSS!

I'M STILL TRYIN' TO GET USED TO MATTIE AND DORIAN HERE!

DON'T GET YOUR FEATHERS IN A BUNCH, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!

IT WAS JUST A STUPID KISS, NO BIG DEAL

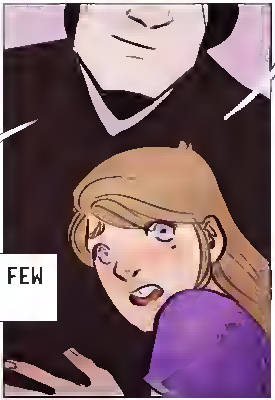


WHAT DO YOU--?
IT WAS A SPUR OF THE MOMENT THING! IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE *TOGETHER* OR WHATEVER--
BUT I THOUGHT--

AHHHHH, LALALALAAA!!
AWKWARD! DO THAT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

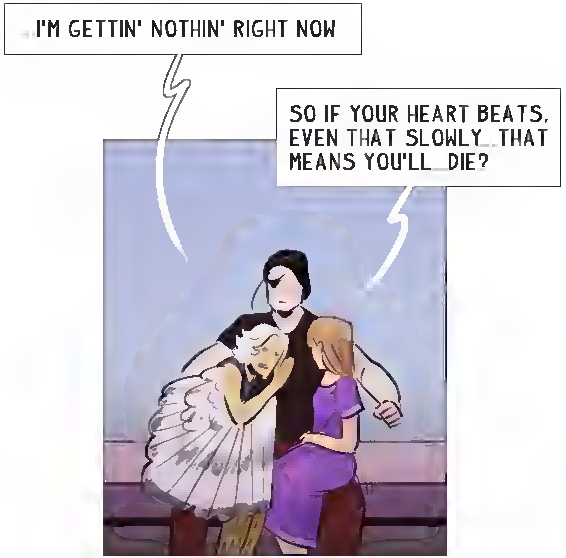
UHHH MATTIE, DO I NEED TO TELL YA TO DO THAT SOMEWHERE ELSE TOO?

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--IT'S JUST THAT...I HEARD HIS HEART BEAT.



IT DOES THAT A FEW TIMES A DAY.

DUDE I WANNA HEAR!


...I'M GETTIN' NOTHIN' RIGHT NOW
SO IF YOUR HEART BEATS, EVEN THAT SLOWLY...THAT MEANS YOU'LL...DIE?

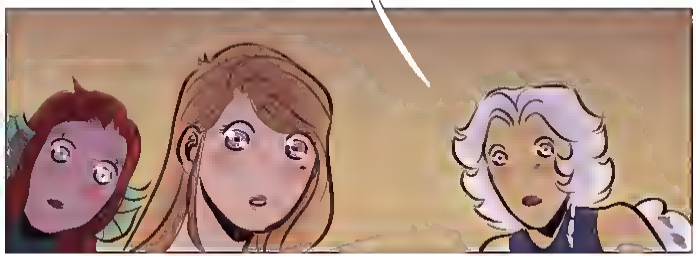
EVENTUALLY, YES.

MOONBORN CAN LIVE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, IT HAS TO DO WITH THE CHANGES WE UNDERGO WHEN WE ARE REBORN

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE MY OWN EXPERIENCE--

NO WAY.

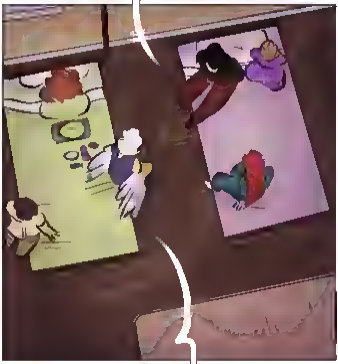
YOU'RE GONNA TELL US ABOUT YOUR REBIRTH?? DUDE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT STORY FOR LIKE *EVER*



WELL, I DON'T KNOW--

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY AND I NEED DISTRACTING TELL US

ALL RIGHT...

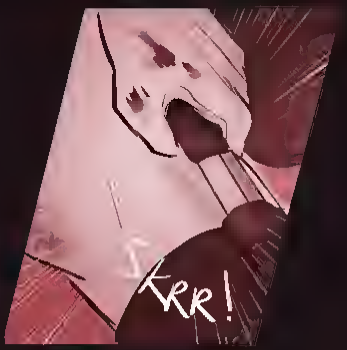


I LOVE DORIAN'S STORIES, MAN. IT'S LIKE HAVING A GRANDPA...

MAYBE YOU ALL REMEMBER THAT I WAS THE LAST MAN ALIVE ON THAT BATTLEFIELD.

AND THE MISTRESS OF GOLGOTHA WAS STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

I KNEW I WAS DONE FOR. BUT I STILL HAD SOME STRENGTH LEFT.



MY, MY, HALF-DEAD AND STILL FIGHTING! YOU REMIND ME A LITTLE OF MYSELF, BOY.

I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU, FILTHY MOONBORN IF YOU ARE HERE TO KILL ME, DO IT LET ME JOIN THE REST OF MY REGIMENT

OH NO I LIKE YOU CAPTAIN
YOU DON'T STUMBLE UPON SUCH A FINE SPECIMEN AND LEAVE HIM TO ROT WHAT KIND OF "FILTHY MOON-BORN" WOULD I BE IF I DID THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU--
I'M GIVING YOU YOUR DEATH...

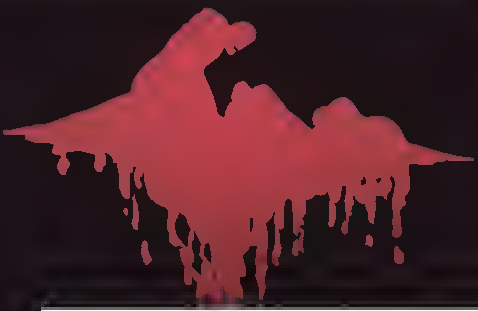
IT'S CALLED THE POISON KISS.

THROUGH IT, AN ANCIENT SICKNESS IS PASSED AND IT'S MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN THE SUFFERER HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DRAINED OF BLOOD, AS I PRACTICALLY WAS ON THAT BATTLEFIELD.

YOUR BODY STOPS FOR AN INSTANT, AND IN THOSE MOMENTS OF DEATH THE DISEASE TAKES OVER.

THERE'S NO CURE. IT SLOWS THE HEART, PRODUCES A TERRIBLE BLOODLUST AND ANIMAL STRENGTH BORNE FROM IT. AND ENHANCES THE SENSES SO MUCH THAT STRONG LIGHT IS AGONIZING TO THE EYES AND SKIN. EVEN SOUNDS ARE PAINFUL.

THERE'S A LEGEND TOLD IN GOLGOTHA... THE FIRST MOONBORN. THE BEARER OF THIS RARE DISEASE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, WAS SAID TO HAVE SUCCUMBED TO THE THIRST ONE NIGHT AND DRAINED HIS LOVED ONES OF THEIR BLOOD...



HE WAS SO OVERCOME WITH REMORSE THAT HE WEPT AND KISSED THEM AS THEY LAY DYING... AND CONTAMINATED THEM ALL.

THE DISEASE SPREAD AND THE AFFLICTED WERE BANISHED TO THE DESERT. BUT THE BLOODLUST OFTEN DROVE THEM OUT OF THE DESERT CAVES IN SEARCH OF SUSTENANCE MOST NIGHTS AND THEY BECAME MORE NUMEROUS...

THOSE "BORN UNDER THE MOON".

I FELT MYSELF DIE THERE. ON THE SAND. IT WAS MUCH LIKE WINDING DOWN INTO SLEEP.
THIS WAR WILL SOON BE OVER. GO TO GOLGOTHA WHEN YOU WAKE.

TO BE CONTINUED...